

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/529,153

Applicant(s)

LEE, HENRI

Examiner

Jason P. Salce

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE-08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/24/2005
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 3/24/2005 was filed after the filing date of the instant application on 9/24/2002. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement has been considered by the examiner.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in the instant application, filed on 3/24/2005.

Applicant is advised of possible benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), wherein an application for patent filed in the United States may be entitled to the benefit of the filing date of a prior application filed in a foreign country.

Specification

35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, requires the specification to be written in "full, clear, concise, and exact terms." The specification is replete with terms which are not clear, concise and exact. The specification should be revised carefully in order to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Examples of some unclear, inexact or verbose terms used in the specification are: Paragraph 0029 states that every room is equipped with a box B1 to B4, the details of which are shown in Figure 2. Figure 2

teaches the device MDS', which is the central device that contains components MX, UT and U1. The examiner cannot find a figure that teaches the details of boxes B1 to B4. The examiner notes that the specification appears to be a translation from a foreign application. The examiner recommends that Applicant conduct a thorough translation in order to properly convey the invention.

In order to expedite the prosecution of the instant application, the examiner will conduct a search of the prior art and apply an art rejection based on the high level diagrams and portions of the specification that can be understood by the examiner. Note that if Applicant fails to properly respond to the objection, a 112 1st Paragraph rejection will be applied for the specification failing to teach one of ordinary skill in the art how to make or use the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 2 recites the limitation "the control signals network". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Goodman (U.S. Patent No. 6,192,939).

Referring to claim 1, Goodman discloses a system for distribution of audio/video signals (see **Figure 2**) comprising audio/video signal sources (see **Figure 30a and Column 29, Line 35 through Column 20, Line 5 for the system containing multiple video sources suites**) and audio/video signal receivers (see **televisions 154 in Figure 2**).

Goodman also discloses that the system comprises a central processing and multiplexing unit (see **main information interface 200 in Figure 2**).

Goodman also discloses that the system comprises a twisted pair service network for routing audio/video signals derived from sources to the central processing and multiplexing unit (see **Figure 5 for an intermediate UTP network 500**) and a twisted pair distribution network to carry the processed and multiplexed audio/video signals output from the processing and multiplexing unit to the receivers (see **UNIT UTP networks 400 in Figure 5**).

Referring to claim 2, Goodman also discloses a means of inputting control signals that can be routed on the control signals network (see **remote control 834 in Figure 8**).

Referring to claim 3, Goodman also discloses connection means on which signal sources can be connected to send signals and to receive control signals that can be routed on the control signals network **(see wiring block 805 in Figure 8)**.

Referring to claim 4, Goodman also discloses including input modulators associated with corresponding connection means to modulate signals to be routed on the service network **(see control modulator 1060 for set-top box 832, where multiple set top box exist in the system (see Figures 8 and 10))**.

Referring to claim 5, Goodman also discloses coaxial cable terminals **(see set top boxes in Figure 8)** on which a coaxial cable leading to a TV receiver can be connected **(see the connection 1092 from set-top box 832 to television 154 in Figure 10)**.

Referring to claim 6, Goodman also discloses adapters associated with coaxial terminals to adapt a processed signal output from the distribution network to be routed on a coaxial cable **(see HPF, video demodulator and NTSC modulator in set top box 832 in Figure 8)**.

Referring to claim 7, Goodman also discloses multiplexing means to multiplex control signals on the service network and to multiplex the modulated TV signals on the distribution network **(see Column 7, Line 63 through Column 8, Line 26)**.

Referring to claim 8, Goodman also discloses a processing unit to process the multiplexed modulated signals output from the service network so as to route them on the distribution network (**see Hub 800 in Figure 8**).

Referring to claim 9, Goodman also discloses processing means for individually processing the modulated signals output from the service network before routing them to multiplexing means (**see media converter 1012 in Figure 10**).

Referring to claim 10, Goodman also discloses multiplexing means to multiplex the control signals output from the service network to reinject them onto the service network (**see wiring block 805 for accepting multiple signals from remote controls 834 and combining the remote control signals into a single output 807 back to hub 800 in Figure 8**).

Referring to claim 11, Goodman also discloses that the control signal input means includes a wave receiver associated with a remote control (**see remote control 834 in Figure 8**).

Referring to claim 12, Goodman also discloses a box that includes input modulators associated with corresponding connection means to modulate signals output from sources (**see NTSC modulator 1068 in Figure 10**), output adapters

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associated with corresponding coaxial terminals to adapt the signal output from the distribution network (**see output 1088 from wall jack to set top box in Figure 10**), means of inputting control signals that can be routed on the service network (**see remote control 834 in Figure 10**), connection means onto which signal sources can be connected to send video signals (**see again output 1088 from wall jack to set top box in Figure 10**) and to received control signals on the service network (**see low pass filter 1070 in Figure 10**), coaxial cable terminals to which a coaxial cable connecting to a TV receiver can be connected (**see connection 1092 in Figure 10**) and means of connection to the distribution network and the service network (**see HPF 1064 and control modulator 1060 in Figure 10**).

Referring to claim 13, Goodman also discloses that the distribution network and the service network are formed from a single previously installed network of cables consisting of twisted wire pairs (**see Column 4, Lines 8-15 and Figure 2**).

Referring to claim 14, Goodman also discloses that the multiplexing means are also connected to external video signal sources processed later in the processing unit so that they can be transferred onto the distribution network (**see Figure main information interface 200 in Figure 8 and video source suites 3014 connected to video source controller 3010 and NxM switch 3012 in Figure 30a**).

Referring to claim 15, Goodman also discloses that the external sources include antennas and/or satellite terminals (see **Column 30, Lines 15-18**).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason P. Salce whose telephone number is (571) 272-7301. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (571) 272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jason P Salce
Primary Examiner
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March 2, 2008